

A Brief History of Gibraltar.

Gibraltar, guarding the entrance to the Mediterranean, has strategic importance and over the centuries has been fought over by Spain, France, and Britain, each one claiming possession.

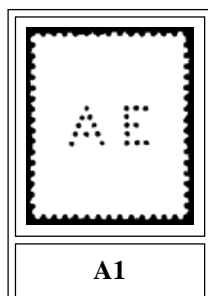
What is undeniable is that during the war of the 'Spanish Succession', Gibraltar was captured by the British Fleet on 4th August 1704 when an Anglo-Dutch fleet, under the command of Admiral George Rooke, took Gibraltar from the Spanish. The war between Britain and Spain rumbled on, but under the *Treaty of Utrecht* in 1713 Gibraltar was ceded to Britain. The Treaty stated '*the town, castle and fortifications were to be held and enjoyed forever without any exception or impediment whatsoever*'.

During World War II 'The Rock' was an important base for the Royal Navy, controlling as it does, the entrance to and exit from the Mediterranean. To this day, it remains strategically important, with half the world's seaborne trade passing through the 8 mile wide strait.



The 'Stamp Gallery' that follows has been assembled as a result of a small piece in the Perfin Society Bulletin asking for collectors to report what they hold of Gibraltar Postage Stamps with Perfins. There is only one Perfin recorded for Gibraltar!

William Hall has suggested that the user might be the **Anglo-Egyptian Bank** who opened a branch there in **1888**. They were taken over by Barclays Bank Ltd in 1920.



In use: 1900-1905.
 Dates: 24 Feb 1903 - ... July 1903.
 Issues: 1898 Issue
 QV ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 6d
 KEVII ½d, 1d

Ident: Ø Anglo-Egyptian Bank,
 Gibraltar branch, opened
 in 1888.

Pmks: 'A26' (Gibraltar).

Stamp Gallery



SG9 ???

Based on its colour, this Queen Victoria stamp may well come from the original 1886 issue. The first 1d stamp of Gibraltar (SG9) was issued in February 1886 in 'Rose', whereas the 1898 re-issue (SG40) was in 'Carmine'.



Rose



Carmine

The burning question - '*is this Rose or a shade of Carmine*'?

Re-issue on 1st October 1898 of the first Gibraltar stamps which were issued 1886/7.



SG39



SG40 ???



SG41



SG42



SG44



SG46



SG67

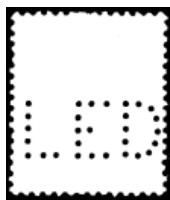
Also reported are QV 1d (SG9), 2d (SG10), 2½d (SG11) - **all unconfirmed** - which come from the original 1886-1887 Issue. These were superseded in August 1889 by Spanish currency overprints (**not** known with the "AE" Perfin), which were in turn replaced in October 1889 by Spanish currency stamps.

I suspect these three are 1898 re-issued stamps that have been mistaken for the earlier issue.

If you know differently, please let me know!

Also KEVII 1d (SG47), 2d (SG48), and 2½d (SG49).

These next two 'Postage & Revenue' stamps come from a **"CANCELLED"** Carpet Die, which, based on the stamps used, date to the mid 1920's.

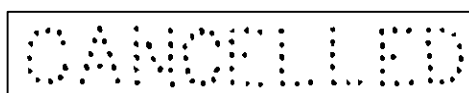


SG97



SG98

The next item shows three stamps affixed to an official/legal document, that has been hand stamped with a **'SUPREME COURT/CANCELLED/10 JUN 1933/GIBRALTAR'** cancel, then the word **'CANCELLED'** perforated through both the stamps and the document.



The stamps involved are 5/- (**SG105**), 6d (**SG97a**), and 1/- (**SG102a**).

A much smaller 'CANCELLED' Carpet Die has been reported, but being on a loose stamp, the context is unknown. Based on the stamp, it dates to the mid 1900's.



SG51 or 61

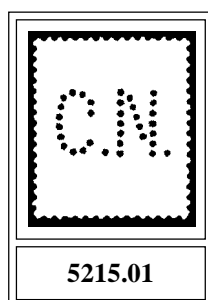


We finish this section with a much more modern stamp used on a receipt. Here the date portion has just clipped the stamp, a 2d 'HMS Carmania' stamp first issued 3rd April 1967.

Although *not used* in Gibraltar, this final group are included for interest simply because they appear on Gibraltar stamps overprinted 'Morocco/Agencies' for use in Morocco.

Comptoir National D'escompte, Tangier.

From 1898-1906, Gibraltar Postage Stamps overprinted 'Morocco Agencies' were used in Morocco. However, on 1st January 1907, the British Post Office took direct control of the post offices in Morocco, where they used British issues overprinted 'MOROCCO/AGENCIES' and 'TANGIER' - See 'GB Overprinted Stamps for use Abroad - Morocco'.



In use: 1905-1910.
 Dates:
 Issues: **Gibraltar stamps** overprinted
 'Morocco Agencies'.
 GB stamps overprinted
 'MOROCCO/AGENCIES'
 with Spanish currency o/p.
 Ident: Comptoir National D'escompte,
 Tangier Branch.
 Pmks: 'A26' (Gibraltar).



SG17 or 24



SG18 or 25



SG19 or 26



SG20 or 27



SG116

Cancellations (where known) are from Tangier with an 'A26' Gibraltar cancel.
 Reported examples include: SG17, 18, 19, 20, 24 (5c), 25 (10c), 26 (20c), 27 (25c), 28, and **116** (25 c).

Acknowledgements:

The information has been compiled from material in the collections of
Jack Brandt, Peter Maybury, Gary Shayler, and Jeff Turnbull.

- Stanley Gibbons '*Cyprus, Gibraltar & Malta*' Stamp Catalogue (4th Edition - 2014).
- The World Perfins Catalogue (European Section) - Robert J Schwerdt (1994).

If you can add anything new to this listing of the 'Perfin(s) of Gibraltar', please let Roy Gault know. Address and e-Mail details are published on the Perfin Society website.

Figures correct to **17th March 2019**.